Harry the fourth ? or fifth ?

SHAL. Harry the fourth.

PIST. A foutra for thine office ! —
Sir John, thy tender lambkin now is king ;
Harry the fifth's the man, I speak the truth :
When Pistol lies, do this ; and fig me, like
The bragging Spaniard [6].

FAL. What ! is the old king dead ?

PIST. As nail in door [7] : the things I speak, are just.

. Away, Bardolph; saddle my horse, — Master

[6] The bragging Spaniard.] Toifta in Spanish *higas dar* is to *insult by putting the thumb between the fore and middle finger*. From this Spanish custom we yet say in contempt, ** a % for you."

JOHNSON.

So, in The Shepherd's Slumber, a song published in England's Helicon, 1600:

" With scowling browes their follies check e
<e And so give them their%. " &c.

See my note on Romeo and Juliet, Act I. Sc. I.

STEEVENS.

Dr. Johnson has properly explained this phrase : but it should be added that it is of Italian origin. When the Milanese revolted against the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, they placed the empress his wife upon a mule with her head towards the tail and ignominiously expelled her their city. Frederick afterwards besieged and took the place, and compelled every one of his prisoners on pain of death to take with his teeth a fig from the posteriors of a mule. The party was at the same time obliged to repeat to the executioner the words " ecco la fica. " From this circumstance " far la fica " became a term of derision, and was adopted by other nations. The French say likewise " faire la figue."

DOUCE.

See this phrase fully explained in Mr. Douce's Illustrations of Shakspeare.

Bo SWELL.

[7] *Fal.* What ! is the old king dead ?
Pist. As NAIL IN DOOR.] This proverbial expression is often used than understood. The *door nail* is the *nail* on which in ancient *doors* the knocker strikes. It is therefore used as a

comparison to any one irrecoverably dead; one who has fallen (as Virgil says) *multa morte*, i. e. with abundant death; such as re-iteration of strokes on the head would naturally produce.

STEEVENS